

NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT

Justice				
	Patrick Donovan	Anna Marconi	James Bassett	Gary Hicks
Confidence Score	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Mild Democrat
Opinion Partners				
Dissenting Minority				
Determining Majority				
Lone Dissenter		✓		

- ▶ Number of justices: **5 (1 vacant through 2020)**
- ▶ Number of cases: **73**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **93.2% (68)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice Hicks (22)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **1**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **1**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Anna Marconi (1)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **5**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Anna Marconi (1)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners/dissenting minority

There were zero cases in which two justices joined in dissent. In one case, Justices Donovan and Marconi dissented in part and concurred in part together.

Determining majority

There were zero cases decided by split decision in 2020; therefore, it is not possible to discern a determining minority with the existing data.

Lone dissenter

In 2020, Justice Marconi wrote a lone dissenting opinion in two cases and in two

other cases wrote an opinion concurring in part and dissenting in part. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Marconi recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score.

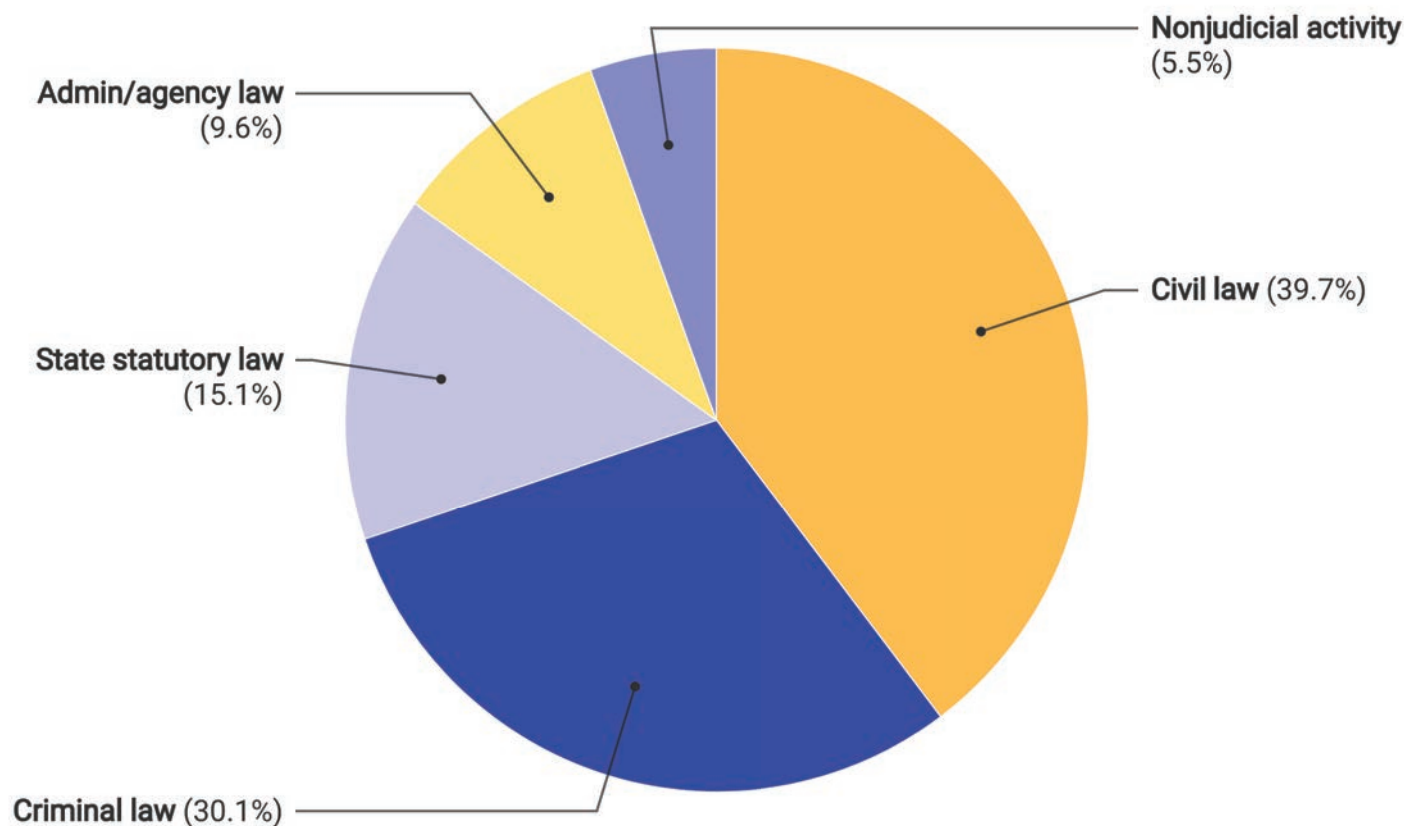
COURT JURISDICTION

The supreme court has jurisdiction to hear appeals from lower trial courts, as well as many administrative agencies. The court may also issue writs of certiorari, prohibition, habeas corpus, and other writs.

The court implemented a rule, Supreme Court Rule 7, instituting mandatory appeals in January 2004. Since that rule has been in place, the supreme court has accepted most appeals from the circuit and superior courts. Most appeals made in a timely manner after the final decision of a trial court are mandatory. That means they will be automatically accepted by the supreme court. Generally, parties may submit a transcript of the lower court proceedings and file written briefs. The high court chooses whether to hear oral arguments or decide the case solely on the briefs.

The types of appeals that fall under the category of “discretionary” include administrative appeals, interlocutory appeals and interlocutory transfers, petitions for original jurisdiction (e.g., writs of habeas corpus) and some trial court appeals. The supreme court has the discretion not to accept such cases for appellate review. If a case is accepted, the court usually follows the same procedure that it would for a mandatory appeal.

Case types decided by New Hampshire Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the New Hampshire Supreme Court in 2020 were civil cases. Of the 73 cases it heard, 29 were civil cases, or 39.7 percent of its total caseload for the year. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were criminal law cases. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort. The New Hampshire Supreme Court heard 22 criminal cases in 2020, or 30.1 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The New Hampshire Supreme Court heard 11 state statutory cases in 2020, or 15.1 percent of its total caseload for the year.